



*Parks, Recreation and
Neighborhood Services*

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

District 1— Robert Levy
District 3— Kristen O’Kane
District 5— Blake Balajadia
District 7— Erik Fong, Vice Chair
District 9— Rudy Flores
Citywide— Virginia Thomas

Sergio Jimenez, Chair —District 2
Barinder Ahluwalia—District 4
Karl Sveinsson—District 6
Francis Nguyen—District 8
Brian Quint—District 10

Draft Minutes **Wednesday, March 4, 2014** **5:30 p.m.**

I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day

- Chair Jimenez called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm
- Commissioner O’Kane absent

II. Public Comment

(Members of the Public are invited to speak on any item that does not appear on today’s Agenda and that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Commission - Speakers are limited to 2 minutes).

- Larry Ames offered information regarding the Willow Glen Trestle.
- Scott Lane also spoke about the Willow Glen Trestle and St. James Park design guidelines, Three Creeks Trail and Martial Cottle Park.
- Kirk Vartan suggested looking at open space above intersections & platforms over 280 for park space.

III. Announcements

- Chair Jimenez – March 18th , Oil Train open forum at South Side Community Center
- Vice Chair Fong – March 5th , Deconstructing The Encampment, AACI center on Story Rd.

IV. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve the Minutes of February 4, 2015
- B. Approve the Attendance Report
- C. Receive and File Correspondence to Commission
- D. Development Project Updates

Motion to Approve the Consent Calendar:

M: Flores **S:** Quint

(10 - 0) Commissioner O’Kane absent

V. Reports

A. **Chair; None**

B. **Director;** Steve Hammack reported on the following:

- Turf conversion activities and the development of a work group
- Introduced the new Parks Manager, Nicolle Burnham, who shared her background and her involvement with Parks turf conversion activities
- Disc golf course opening at Kelley Park

C. **Council and Commission**

1. **Council Liaison;** Michele Dexter – reported on the following:

- Martin Fontana Park turf conversion project
- Inquired about any concerns from the Commission.

2. **Senior Citizens Commission;** no member present

3. **Youth Commission;** no member present

D. **Department Staff**

1. **1. Homelessness Response Team Report;** Ray Bramson, Homelessness Response Manager, highlighted the following:

- Homeless census and survey 4770 counted in 2013
- 73% unsheltered – highest in the nation
- Homeless Response Team activities, response, abatement
- Watershed Protection Team, joint team with the Water District
- Interagency partnerships
- Ongoing challenges to include lack of housing available

Commissioner Comments/Questions:

Flores:

- Inquired if staff has reached out to PG&E. Ray confirmed staff has along with several large private companies, sharing challenges.

Levy:

- Asked about a relocation strategy after removing the homeless from the creek areas. Ray referenced the community plan and possibly master leasing under-utilized hotels/motels.

Vice Chair Fong:

- Inquired what PRNS resources would provide assistance. Ray spoke to the watershed protection and response teams.

Quint:

- Questioned if the city of origin was collected in the census data? Ray mentioned roughly ¾ of the homeless population were Santa Clara County residents.

Chair Jimenez:

- Asked for a definition of an encampment and Ray defined it as an area created for habitation.
- Shared his struggle as a community member and inquired how staff approaches public education for understanding. Ray shared with the Commission that we are working in a regulatory environment and that housing is the best option.

Thomas:

- Inquired about community group involvement. Ray mentioned community groups are utilized to activate the sites and that Environmental Services captures the majority of the trash clean up numbers.
- Asked about interim houses shown. Ray shared staff is interested in and utilized all housing options.
- Spoke to a Santa Clara County homeless task force. Ray spoke to a team effort.
- Wondered what attracts the homeless population to San Jose vs. to adjacent cities. Ray spoke to the downtown core being between two dense riparian corridors and that the topography lends itself to encampment with limited resources to mitigate.

Sveinsson:

- Inquired what adjacent cities are doing differently along their trails to keep homeless people from the trails and spoke to the difficulties faced overall. Ray stated the problem is looked at from a County level and ultimately, San Jose has more money for programs. Steve Hammack added fixed post Rangers are along Los Gatos Creek Trail and spoke to a partnership with the City of Campbell.

Chair Jimenez opened the item for public comment:

- Chris Scanlan inquired about plans for those who do not want assistance and potential enforcement. Ray provided background and steps on the process taken by staff.

VI. New & Returning Business

A. **Budget Update;** Avi Yotim, Administrative Officer, highlighted the following:

- Budget forecast shows an \$8 million surplus
- City of San José Neighborhood Associations/Youth Commission Budget Priority Setting Session on March 7th
- Reviewed the budget schedule

Commissioner Comments/Questions:

Thomas:

- Inquired about changes in the budget priority setting session and Avi referred to the budget schedule.

Levy:

- Asked how early should requests/proposals be submitted for consideration. Avi provided a brief overview of staff's process.

Jimenez:

- Inquired about an excess fund balance and how it is allocated. Steve spoke to City Council requests for the remaining funding and the process taken for budget additions.

Levy:

- Spoke to the Commission writing letters to request budget considerations.

Staff Recommendation: Accept the Report and Provide Staff Feedback

Motion to Accept the Report:

M: Levy

S: Balajadia

(10 - 0)

Commissioner O'Kane absent

B. Family Camp Evaluation; Art Catbagan, Recreation Superintendent and Jena Sorrells, Parks Facility Supervisor highlighted the following:

- Background on previous City Council direction
- Occupancy levels for the upcoming season
- Collaborative Partnerships, both new and existing
- Staffing

Chair Jimenez opened the item for public comment:

- Steve Lownsbery, Friends of Family Camp shared his appreciation for staff in their management of camp and the dedication to continue to raise visibility. He spoke to the master plan completed and long term capital investment. Commissioner Levy inquired about Rim Fire impacts and Steve shared Friends of Family Camp contributions and there was not as much of a draw from camps that were destroyed as expected.
- Tiffany Sommerlad expressed camp is a vital part of the City of San Jose and shared her experience as both a camp employee and camper. She stressed her hope that future generations will preserve forest areas.
- Tom Bonsack, President Friends of San Jose Family Camp, shared additional contributions, spoke to volunteering and shared his feeling that Jena as an asset to the camp. Commissioner Thomas inquired about camp fees for volunteers. Tom shared the benefits currently available.

Commissioner Comments/Questions:

Fong:

- What is the most common way new visitors find out about camp and what percentage are repeat visitors. Art shared historical and present experiences and Jena added a 23% increase in new campers this past season, possibly due to word of mouth, Friends of Family Camp outreach and/or media coverage of The Rim Fire.

Levy:

- Shared additional history with the Commission, expressing his hesitation to move forward with a twenty year recommendation and suggested another five year. Steve provided information regarding the negotiation process with the U.S. Forest Service and staff's effort to court additional partners who have specific expectations.

Chair Jimenez: Inquired about removing the recommended timeframe.

Commissioner Levy made a motion to move forward with a five year negotiation – no second

Flores: Recommended 10 years or somewhere in the middle.

Fong: Recommended leaving the time frame open and for staff to return.

Quint: Suggested giving staff the flexibility to negotiate and come back.

Thomas: Inquired about ownership and lease timeframes, mentioning she is okay with the twenty year request.

Staff Recommendation: Accept the Report an Direct Staff to Negotiate a 20 Year Lease Agreement and Continue Operations

Motion to Move Forward with the Negotiations Removing the Timeframe and to Return with Renewal Options:

M: Flores S: Quint

(8 - 2)

Commissioner Levy expressed his concern about the 20 year becoming the default.

Commissioner Nguyen departed

C. **Lake Cunningham Bike Park;** Marybeth Harasz, Interim Deputy Director and Greg Meek, Senior Landscape Architect highlighted the following:

- Shared a short video of Valmont Bike Park located in Boulder Colorado
- History and overview of the project
- Bike park features with drawings at 100%

Chair Jimenez opened the item for public comment:

- Justin Beck expressed the bike park has the potential to have an international draw, sharing his background and his request for support.

Commissioner Comments/Questions:

Sveinsson:

- Inquired about the size of the Valmont bike park and how it compares. Steve informed the Commission the size and design is similar to that of the Valmont bike park and that the Valmont designer is the same developer of the San Jose concept plan.
- Mentioned that Bell, a helmet company, offers grant funding. Steve mentioned staff had applied for it in the past.

Levy:

- Inquired if the plan includes a cyclo-cross course. Steve confirmed that there will be and shared community support for the area.
- Questioned a connection to the City's trail network. Steve confirmed connection to the Silver Creek Trail.
- Asked if there is a plan to have a trail around the lake. Steve mentioned a Water District levee project and phase two includes a trail around the lake.

Flores:

- Inquired about festival capacity/capability based on earlier public comment and Steve provided an overview of available parking.

Sveinsson:

- Reminded the Commission that the Amgen utilized Lake Cunningham

Chair Jimenez:

- Asked about staff's plan to manage the usage. Steve spoke to utilizing signage to assist users and spoke to the staff operational plan.
- Inquired if revenue generated would stay with the park. Steve confirmed revenue would be directed to the Lake Cunningham Fund.

Quint:

- Suggested a donation bin if staff does not intend to charge an entrance fee.

Staff Recommendation: Accept the Report

Motion to Accept the Report:

M: Flores

S: Ahuwalia

(9 - 0)

Commissioners O'Kane & Nguyen absent

D. Infrastructure Backlog; Marybeth Harasz, Interim Deputy Director and David McCormic, Associate Landscape Designer highlighted the following:

- Background on outstanding backlog
- Budget request for a Business Intelligence Program Manager, Infor software proposal and overall program support

Commissioner Comments/Questions:

Thomas:

- Inquired about how things got to this point and about the software application mentioned earlier, stating it would be good for reporting park needs. David reminded the Commission that funding is ultimately dependent on the economy and that the application is for staff use, related

to the business intelligence program.

Chair Jimenez:

- Spoke to a previous vendor owned reporting application. David agreed a reporting application would be useful and reminded the Commission of the need to have a system in place to respond to the reports.

Quint:

- Expressed this seems to be a small step into a large project and he debates the value. Steve shared DOT's infrastructure backlog related to road repairs. Marybeth added staff has been tasked with tracking the value of the infrastructure backlog over time and needs a method to capture the data in the field. She expressed that maintenance funding has been chronically under budgeted so the former way of manual collection is no longer feasible. She referenced a bond measure that included funding to repair play lots and that future bonds may be able to fund infrastructure backlog.

Chair Jimenez:

- Asked for a perspective on the budget. Marybeth, providing examples, expressed the backlog will never catch up to the CIP funding and further explained the use of Construction and Conveyance Tax Funds (C&C) as it relates to the backlog and Park Trust Funds.

Levy:

- Inquired about a nexus tied to C&C money. Marybeth explained how it is tied to Council Districts.
- Asked if the mentioned \$60 million tied to maintenance and repair? Marybeth explained the recommendation process.
- Expressed the use of Infor makes sense and that policies and procedures need to be in place to keep the data accurate.

Chair Jimenez:

- Asked about Business Intelligence as it relates to the expectation of lowering the backlog. Marybeth spoke to a priority identification approach to repairs.

Ahluwalia:

- Inquired about software and the staffing components. David explained the intent of the proposed Program Manager position.

Levy:

- Expressed that the program wouldn't work without someone to oversee it.

Chair Jimenez:

- Asked what staff will do if the position is not approved by the City Council. Dave expressed staff has received verbal support and are hopeful the position will be approved.

Staff Recommendation: Accept the Report

Motion to Accept the Report:

M: Balajadia S: Thomas

(9 - 0) Commissioners O'Kane & Nguyen absent

E. Work Plan Update.

Steve Hammack introduced the item and the following was discussed:

- Turf Conversion item needs to be deferred to form a work group
- Adopt a Park, move to May or June
- Budget Priorities (top 10) and Commission letter
- Santana East & West brief update in April
- Trestle Update

Staff Recommendation: Accept the Amended Work Plan

Motion to Accept the Work Plan:

M: Flores S: Levy

(9 - 0) Commissioners O’Kane & Nguyen absent

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

The City of San Jose is committed to open and honest government and strives to consistently meet the community’s expectations by providing excellent service, in a positive and timely manner, and in the full view of the public. The City Code of Ethics may be viewed on-line at http://www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/cp_manual/CPM_0_15.pdf

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For questions, please contact Teresa Meyer-Calvert at (408) 793-4186.

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